

HAZARD ALERT



SURFACE REPAIRMAN - MECHANIC SAFETY IN VIRGINIA

- * There were 66 repairman-mechanic lost time injuries reported in 2001 and 2002.
- * This represented 33% of all surface lost time injuries.
- * The three highest injury classifications occurring to surface repairmen/mechanics were:
(1) maintenance - 35; (2) slips/falls – 14; (3) handling materials – 8.

Maintenance, slips/falls and handling materials account for 75% of all surface lost time injuries.

REMEMBER: The hands, fingers and back are most commonly injured while performing maintenance work.

MAINTENANCE SAFETY TIPS:

- Block equipment wheels to prevent unintentional movement and secure equipment components such as buckets, blades, and beds, to prevent accidental falling while performing maintenance work.
- Use tools, not fingers, to align pins for hydraulic jacks, brackets, blades, beds, etc.
- Wear suitable gloves for the work being performed.
- Wear safety glasses when hazards of flying metal are present or battery maintenance work is being performed.
- Use mechanical aids and lifting devices to lift heavy components and always stay in the clear while lifting such objects. Use equipment, not your back to lift heavy objects, when possible.

REMEMBER: Slipping and falling injuries increase with equipment heights, changing weather conditions and failure to maintain three-point contact when mounting/dismounting equipment.

SLIPPING/FALLING SAFETY TIPS:

- Always maintain three-point contact when mounting/dismounting equipment.
Repairman/mechanics often fail to do this while carrying tools and test equipment.
- Wet, muddy and frozen conditions on equipment steps and handrails are major contributing factors in slipping/falling accidents.
- Practice good housekeeping in shops and designated work areas to prevent stumbling and falling hazards. Properly illuminate all walkways and work areas used at night.
- Exercise caution and maintain secure footing when carrying tools, test equipment and equipment components.

REMEMBER: The hands and back are most commonly injured while handling materials.

HANDLING MATERIALS SAFETY TIPS:

- Repairmen/mechanics have the second highest lost time injury rate involving handling materials.
- Wear suitable gloves for the work being performed.
- Inspect material for sharp or jagged edges and heat before handling.
- Use proper lifting techniques and avoid twisting, jerking motions while lifting and carrying to prevent back injuries.
- Evaluate weight of material being handled and use other available means of lifting heavy objects.
- Maintain good communications between persons lifting and carrying loads.